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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1170. DECEMBER 17. 8 PM

PRIORITY

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I HAVE NOW HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH BRANDT AND CHANCELLOR RE BERLIN AND GERMAN QUESTION. LATTER MADE OBVIOUS EFFORT TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION HIS SPECIFIC VIEWS, AND PERHAPS CLEAREST INDICATION HIS FEELINGS RE SUMMIT CONFERENCE WAS TO REMIND ME THAT IT HAD ALREADY RECEDED FROM EARLIER SUGGESTED DATES TO APRIL OR MAY, AND THAT WERE IT TO BE POSTPONED ANY FURTHER IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD IT IN 1960. FROM KRAPF, WHO WAS HERE FROM GERMAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR FEW DAYS EARLY IN WEEK, AND FROM CARSTENS IN FOREIGN OFFICE, I GATHER THERE HAS BEEN NO PARTICULAR CHANGE IN CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS ON EITHER BERLIN OR REUNIFICATION (ALTHOUGH THEY BOTH INDICATE THAT HE HAS NOT CONFIDED HIS VIEWS TO ANYONE RECENTLY). I CAN ONLY SURMISE, THEREFORE, THAT ADENAUER INTENDS IN EFFECT TO LEAVE INITIATIVE TO GENERAL DE GAULLE BEFORE COMING OUT WITH HIS OWN PROPOSALS. IN ANY EVENT, HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED THAN ON OCCASION MY FIRST CALL ON HIM. AND AT END OF LONG. HARD DAY SEEMED EXTRAORDINARILY FRESH AND ALERT.

ON OTHER HAND, BRANDT, WITH WHOM I LUNCHED YESTERDAY, HAS BEEN MOST FORTHCOMING. WHILE IN GOOD SPIRITS, HE EXPRESSED APRRE-HENSIONS RE POSSIBLE WESTERN MOVES AT SUMMIT WHICH COULD WEAKEN WEST BERLIN'S TIES WITH FEDREP. AS IN BERLIN, BRANDT MADE POINT OF HIS AGREEMENT WITH CHANCELLOR, AND REITERATED HIS

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INSISTENCE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD NOT REVIVE WESTERN PROPOSAL, TABLED FINAL STAGES GENEVA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, AS BASIS FORTHCOMING EAST-WEST SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS. INSTEAD, HE SUGGESTED AS MINIMUM THAT WE REVERT TO INDIVISIBLE PACKAGE PLAN, PRESERVING LINK BETWEEN BERLIN PROBLEM AND REUNIFICATION GERMANY. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION WHETHER, AS TACTICAL MOVE, WESTERN POWERS MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED BASE THEIR OPENING POSITION ON JUNE 20, 1949 AGREEMENT, WHICH TERMINATED BLOCKADE AND DEALT WITH QUESTIONS GERMAN REUNIFICATION AS WELL AS BERLIN ACCESS.

REFERRING KHRUSHCHEV'S LATEST PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SOVIET PEACE TREATY PROPOSAL, BRANDT SAID HE RECOGNIZED SOVIETS WOULD ALMOST SURELY SIGN SEPARATE PEACE TREATY WITH EAST GERMAN REGIME EVENTUALLY. HE APPEARED APPRECIATE THAT IN LAST ANALYSIS WESTERN POWERS COULD DO NOTHING PREVENT SUCH ACTION. HE SEEMED TO FEEL, FURTHERMORE, THAT ANY NEW ARRANGEMENT, NO MATTER WHAT NATURE, WOULD NOT HAVE RESULT OF MITIGATING PRESSURE ON BERLIN FOR LONG, AND THAT THEREFORE PRESENT STATUS WAS HARDLY LIKELY TO BE IMPROVED UPON.

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